

"CORYELL'S FERRY" (NOW NEW HOPE, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.) IN THE REVOLUTION

An Address

*delivered before Fort Washington Chapter,
Daughters of the American Revolution.
May 21st, 1915.*

BY
OLIVER RANDOLPH PARRY
LARGELY TAKEN FROM THAT BY
RICHARD RANDOLPH PARRY
DELIVERED. JUNE 15th 1907.



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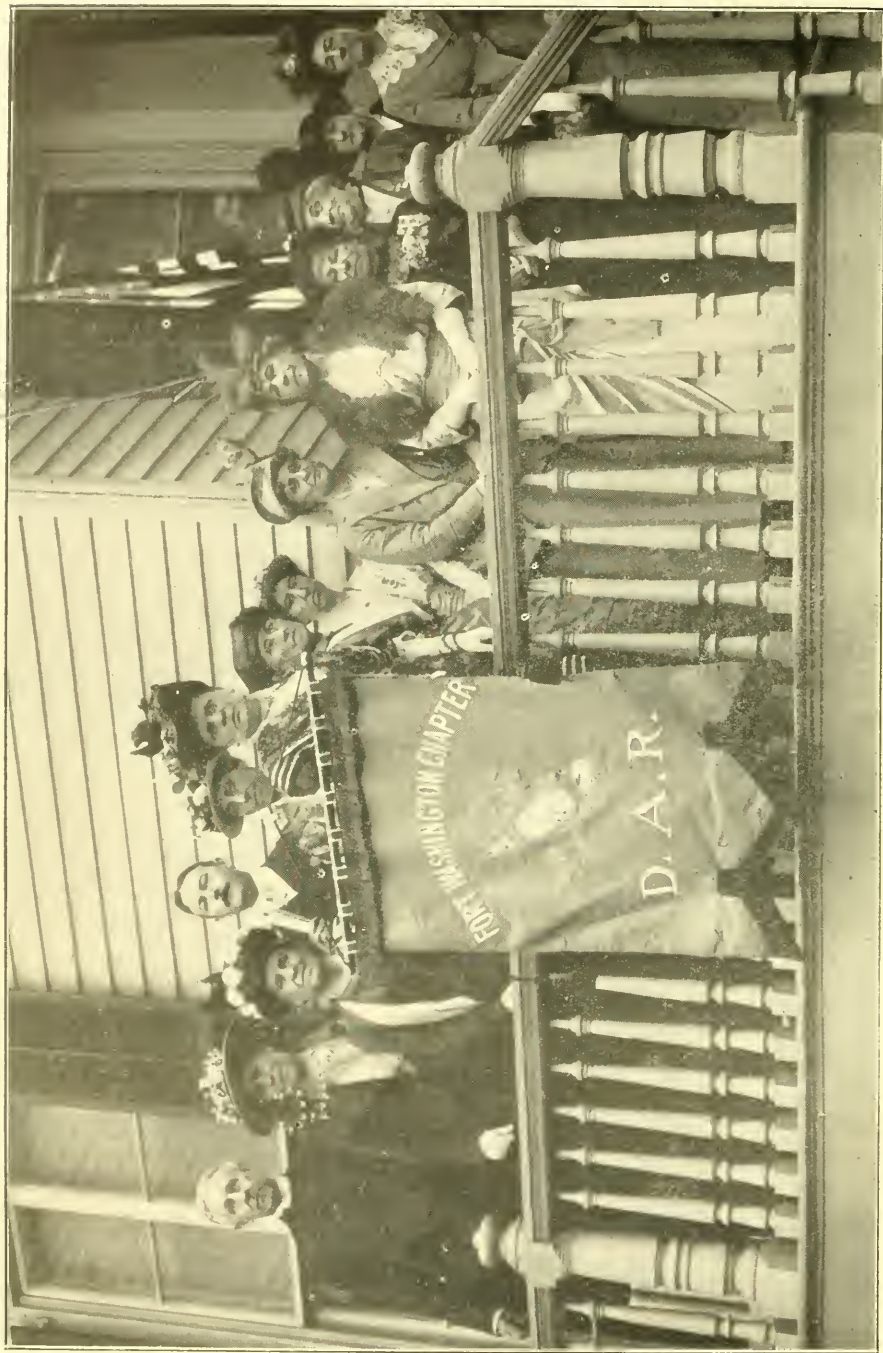


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Fort Washington Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. Thomas Hugh Boorman, Regent; Officers and Guests, May 21st, 1915. Guests of Honor, Mrs. William Cumming Story, President General, Chaplain Edmund Banks Smith, D.D., of Governor's Island, N. Y., and Oliver Randolph Parry, S. R., of Pennsylvania.

"CORYELL'S FERRY IN THE REVOLUTION."

An Address delivered before the Fort Washington Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, by Oliver Randolph Parry, at Isham Mansion, Isham Park, 211th Street, New York City, N. Y., on May 21st, 1915.

President, General, Regents and members of the Fort Washington Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution: The speaker is indeed honored at being asked to deliver an address before your Society, near spots as historical as the Battles of "Fort Washington," and of "Fort Lee," fought over one hundred and thirty-eight years ago, and not far distant from the headquarters of the then Commander-in-Chief of the American Army of the Revolution, and subsequently the First President of this our glorious country. There is also a matter of personal sentiment in the address, about to be delivered, as it has been largely taken from that delivered by the speaker's father before the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution, at "Coryell's Ferry," Pa., on June 15th, 1907, the occasion of their annual pilgrimage.

To students of American History and the period of the Revolutionary War, this ground, as well as "Coryell's Ferry," is indeed most familiar, and is interwoven with that great struggle which culminated in the independence of the colonies and the permanent establishment of this our glorious country. At "Fort Washington" and "Coryell's Ferry," the ancestors of many of you here to-day, no doubt under far different and most trying circumstances, anxiously awaited, often doubtingly, the development and consummation of the warlike plans and designs with which both places were closely connected and formed a part of one hundred and thirty-eight years ago.

You are all familiar with the Battle of "Fort Washington" and the events leading up to and immediately following, which were so ably noted in the address at your recent Anniversary Meeting, by Rev. Wm. Montague Geer, S.T.D., therefore I will confine this address to consideration of some of those events, pertaining particularly to "Coryell's Ferry" (now New Hope, Bucks Co., Pa.) of the Revolution.

"Coryell's Ferry," the best ferry on the Delaware River, north of Trenton, and located on the main line of travel from Philadelphia to East Jersey and New York, became at the commencement of hostilities at once an important strategic point of value to the American and British armies, both of which, on several occasions, were most desirous to hold and control it, and especially was this so just prior to the "Battle of Trenton," when, upon Lord Cornwallis's army failing to effect a crossing of the Delaware into Pennsylvania, at Trenton, a considerable detachment of troops was sent sixteen miles further up the river, to make the attempt at "Coryell's Ferry," and which attempt doubtless would have been successful but for the wisdom and foresight of General Washington, who, notwithstanding the condition of the river, and foreseeing just such a contingency, had planned against it, and thus defeated the designs of the British commander. To better realize this, however, we must go backward somewhat in memory to the 20th of November, 1776, when Washington, having evacuated "Fort Lee" yonder on the Hudson River, and retreating before Lord Cornwallis's troops through New Jersey, arrived, on the 3d day of December, at the Eastern bank of the Delaware River, to find boats and floats ready to convey the American Army to Pennsylvania on the other side. All these had been secured by and through the activity of two patriotic young men, named Jerry Black and

Captain (afterwards General) Daniel Bray, to whom, acting under military orders, and to their correct knowledge of every boat and boat owner from Trenton to Easton, General Washington was to be, several weeks later, further indebted for the larger fleet procured, which ferried the Continental troops over the river just above the present Taylorsville, at the point now world famous as "Washington's Crossing." The celebrated painting of this perilous venture and crossing, and the many engravings and prints made from it since, are to be seen almost everywhere, in shop windows and private houses.

Cornwallis, leisurely following our army through New Jersey, doubtless felt confident of its capture or destruction at this critical period. With the turbulent waters of the Delaware in front of the Continentals, and (as he supposed) no transportation or ferriage to carry them over, with an overwhelming force of trained regular troops in their rear, it appeared that the war then and there might come to an untimely end, for the raw army he considered but little more than a rebellious mob.

All attempts of the British, however, to enter Pennsylvania either at Trenton or "Coryell's Ferry," having failed, the two hostile armies remained facing each other, on opposite sides of the river, from the eighth to the twenty-fifth of December, 1776, and the cause of independence was saved, as history states. Lord Cornwallis (who could never have dreamed of a battle at Trenton), seemed to feel sure of his prey, having, no doubt, bright visions float through his mind of our army marching on to its annihilation, and but little reckoned the true picture the camera revealed when turned on the scene of his own troops, defeated and broken, many wounded and killed, stores, arms and cannon surrendered, and all that went to make glorious the battle and victory at Trenton. Many circumstances make it

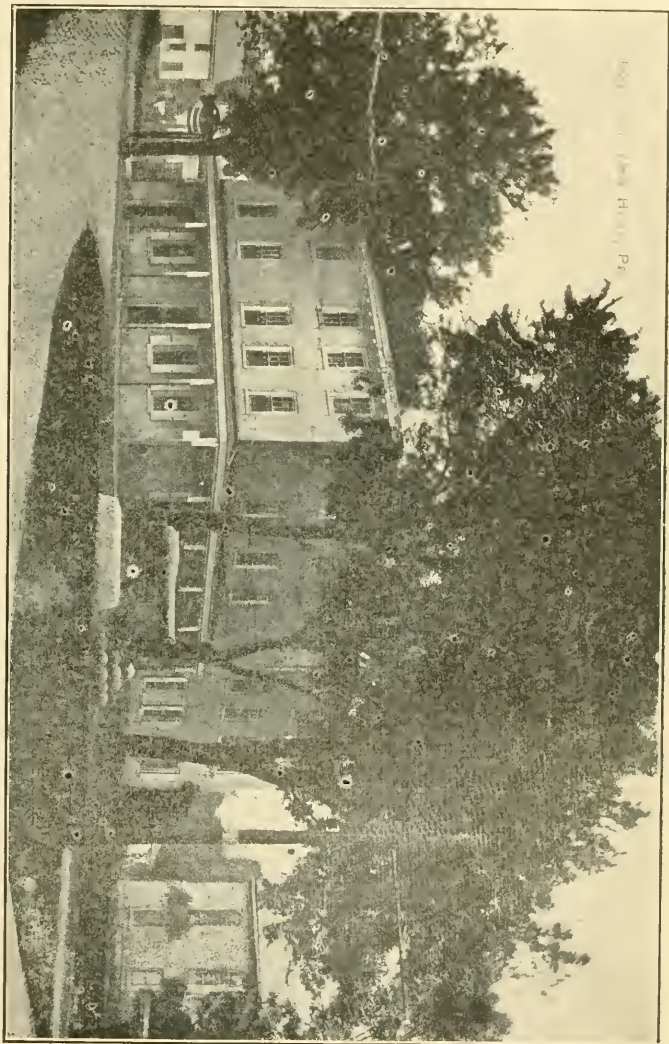
appear not unlikely at this period that Cornwallis believed Washington would be forced to surrender his army on reaching the banks of the Delaware, at Trenton, and the war be of short duration, nor dreamed of his own sun setting at Yorktown long after. How different from this situation results might have been had the British succeeded in entering Pennsylvania at "Coryell's Ferry," we can now only imagine, and, with grateful hearts, be thankful.

So sure was Cornwallis of the defeat of Washington at this juncture, that it has been stated he had obtained leave of absence to return to England, and that his luggage was packed and ready for shipment, when a dispatch rider from Count Donop informed him of the Trenton disaster; and here it may be interesting to note that the house in which the Hessian commander, Colonel Rahl, died of his wounds, stood on the site of the present Roman Catholic Cathedral, on Warren Street, Trenton, on which is a tablet, reciting the fact, erected by the Cathedral corporation.

It has been the popular belief that General Washington never was wounded, but an original letter found in an old trunk in Virginia, during the Civil War, would indicate differently, and that he must have been (at least slightly) wounded in the Battle of Trenton. A copy of this letter was published in the Doylestown (Bucks County), Pa., *Democrat* of May 19th, 1899. It is from Colonel William Palfrey, at Newtown, Pennsylvania, fifth of January, 1777, and is addressed to Henry Jackson, Esq., Boston, Mass., per Captain Goodrich, and is as follows: "Doctor Edwards writes from Trenton that General Washington is slightly wounded, and General Mercer is missing," etc., etc.*

* The original of the above noted letter now hangs upon the walls of the Bucks County Historical Society at Doylestown, Pa., deposited by W. W. H. Davis—Deceased.

1891. (See H. 11) P.



New Hope, on the Delaware ("Coryell's Ferry") has much to make it interesting. The site of the borough was a part of a grant of one thousand acres to Robert Heath in A.D. 1700; surveyed in 1703 and 1704, and patented to R. Heath in A.D. 1710. "The Old York Road" was opened from Philadelphia to the Delaware in 1711, and in 1719 John Wells was granted by the Pennsylvania Assembly the privilege, for seven years, of establishing a ferry at New Hope, which then became known as "Wells' Ferry," later being termed "Coryell's Ferry," for George Coryell, who was the owner of half the ferry rights on the New Jersey side. All these rights and privileges are now (1915) vested in the New Hope Delaware Bridge Company, organized in 1811, chartered by Pennsylvania and New Jersey in 1812, and now one hundred and three years old. The grant of the ferry rights to John Wells expired in 1733, when John Penn, Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Proprietors of the Province of Pennsylvania, granted Wells further rights and privileges, among which was the excluding and prohibiting of all other ferries within a distance of four miles above and below Wells' Ferry. The latter grant is recorded in Philadelphia, August 10th, 1733, in Patent Book "A," Vol. 6, Page 185, etc., and certified to by C. D. Brockden, Recorder.

The ferry rights on the New Jersey side of the river were granted in 1733, by King George the Second, to Emmanuel Coryell, of Amwell, in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, and were to operate a ferry, at a place called "Coates Ferry," New Jersey, opposite "Wells Ferry," on the Pennsylvania side, and excluding any other person or persons from operating a ferry at this point. Both Wells and Coryell kept inns, or taverns, near their ferry landings.

As "Wells' Ferry" the settlement was known down to 1770,

when it was changed to "Coryell's Ferry," as previously stated; and this name it bore until towards the close of the eighteenth century, as a letter (still existent) to Benjamin Parry, addressed "Coryell's Ferry," and dated the 6th of July, A.D. 1787, is in the possession of the speaker's father; and in 1810 it was described as New Hope, lately "Coryell's Ferry." An ancient private map of New Hope, made for Benjamin Parry, bears in colors as follows: "Map of New Hope, 1798." The change was made probably about A.D. 1790, and for reasons noted later on.

Amid the present quiet and peaceful surroundings about us to-day, it is difficult to realize that at several periods of the Revolution the whole section around Coryell's Ferry was bristling with arms and the tramp and tread of armed men, as our patriot sires advanced into, or were driven out of New Jersey, and that during most of the month of December, 1776 (just prior to the battle of Trenton), a large portion of the Continental Army were there and in close proximity. Within the limits of that ancient borough the eye rested everywhere upon the valley, hillside and fields, dotted with the tents of the Continental soldiers, and "Coryell's Ferry" became a military camp. Within ten minutes' ride, below New Hope, at the Neeley (Thompson) farmhouse, were quartered Lieut. James Monroe, afterwards President of the United States, and other officers, including Captain James Moore, of the New York Artillery, who died there of camp fever and lies buried on the farm with a number of others, including several officers whose graves are unmarked. Nearby, at "Chapman's," were General Knox and Captain Alexander Hamilton (killed later on by Aaron Burr in their memorable duel). At "Merrick's" farmhouse were General Greene and his staff, and the General (especially fond of good cheer) de-

voured the poultry, etc., on the farm, to the horror and dismay of the family ; while a few fields away General Sullivan and staff occupied the " Hayhurst " home.

General Washington's headquarters were at the " Keith " house and farm, on the road from Brownsburgh (below New Hope) towards Newton ; and Generals Stirling and De Fermoy, with their troops, at " Beaumont's " and " Coryell's Ferry." These officers were all in close touch with each other, all watching and waiting, eager and anxious to bear their part in the bloody engagement, which they well knew was near at hand.

President Monroe never forgot his friends at the Thompson (Neeley) farmhouse, where he had stayed in 1776, and always inquired about them whenever opportunity offered.

Captain James Moore, who died at the " Neeley " (Thompson) farmhouse, lies buried on the farm, with other officers, as stated. Their graves are enclosed within an iron fence. Outside of this enclosure are a number of other graves, some with rude headstones set up and some without. There are at least eleven that are discernible to this day, and the speaker, in his youth, recalls having counted possibly as many as thirty unmarked graves outside, the latter evidently being of private soldiers. The tombstones of Captain Moore are the original ones, and are thus marked : " To ye memory of Captain James Moore of Ye New York Artillery, Son of Benjamin and Cornelia Moore, of New York. He died December ye 25th, A.D. 1776, aged 24 years and eight months." The headstone is much defaced from chippings by relic hunters. These graves are close to the bank of the Delaware River, east of the canal. At Doylestown, in the rooms of the Bucks County Historical Society, there is a photograph of Captain Moore's grave, and my father has a print of it from a newspaper.

The account comes handed down to us, as family history, that under "The Old Washington Tree," in New Hope, which stood for one hundred and fifty years on the estate of the Paxon family (cousins of the speaker), of "Maple Grove," in a field opposite General De Fermoy's and Lord Stirling's headquarters (and known as "The Old Fort"), General Washington and his trusted Generals, Knox, Stirling, Sullivan and Greene, first talked over, and first outlined, a plan for the Battle of Trenton; and from the time of the Revolution to November 28th, 1893, when it was cut down (to make room for improvements), it was always known and spoken of as "The Old Washington Tree," from this circumstance. Incidentally, the speaker has numerous newspaper clippings of the time, denouncing its destruction.

We are also informed, from the same source, that under the shade of this wide-spreading chestnut tree, General Washington and his staff stopped at noon for refreshments, in 1778, when his army crossed the Delaware, on its road to attack the British under General Clinton at Monmouth, New Jersey.

In "Davis's History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania" (Revised Edition), it is stated that in the spring of 1778 General Washington, believing that the banks of the Delaware River would again become the scene of conflict (in an attempt of the British to reach Philadelphia), appointed General Benedict Arnold, the traitor, to the command of the river, when "Coryell's Ferry" was again, for the second time, placed in a state of security, as were also the other fords and crossings of the Delaware.

From Philadelphia and Branchtown to New Hope, on the Delaware, the whole line of the historic "Old York Road" connecting Philadelphia with New York, speaks to us in clarion notes of these stirring and eventful days, ever singing the song of the

Revolution. At Branchtown, we are reminded of the Battle of Germantown nearby, three American soldiers (part of a picket guard) being killed there in a skirmish with the British, and were buried upon what afterwards became the estate of the artist Russell Smith, who had their graves designated by headstones. At Hatboro, called the "Crooked Billet," in 1776 and later, was fought what is known as the "Battle of the Crooked Billet," on May 1st, 1778, when General Lacey, a Bucks County man, fought a strong detachment of British infantry and cavalry under Major (subsequently General) Simcoe unsuccessfully, and was almost surrounded and hardly escaped capture himself. A tall marble shaft at the north end of Hatboro, a few feet off the Old York Road, to the right (looking toward New Hope), commemorates this engagement, which was had, by order of General Howe, whose troops had been much harassed in Bucks County by Lacey's soldiers for some time previous. At Hartsville, on the Neshaminy, one-half mile from the present village of Hartsville, Bucks County, Washington had his headquarters at a farmhouse, in which both the young Marquis de Lafayette and Count Pulaski reported for military duty. At Centerville we find "Bogart's Tavern" still standing, as in Revolutionary days, when the Bucks County Committee of Safety held its frequent meetings there. It was also General Greene's headquarters at one time.

At Buckingham, as the lifelong friend of the speaker's father, General W. W. H. Davis, deceased, informs us: "The Friends' Meeting House was used as a hospital during a portion of the Revolutionary War, and several soldiers were buried about where the turnpike crosses the hill, some of whose remains were uncovered when the pike was made. On Meeting days the soldiers put one-half of the house in order for Friends, many of

them attending the services. Blood stains may still be seen upon the floor.

“Paxon's Corner” (now Aquetong) also has its connection with the days of the Revolution, for here some of the American soldiers stayed over-night, at the home of the then owner, Benjamin Paxon; one of the soldiers leaving his camp-mug behind in the morning, which is still preserved in the Paxon family, who still own the property one hundred and thirty-nine years later, and known as “Rolling Green.”

When the soldiers were leaving, a good marksman shot off a branch at the very top of a tree, in front of this house on the Old York Road, and the disfigurement was plainly to be seen until very recent years.

New Hope, on the Delaware (“Coryell's Ferry” of the Revolution), the termination of the Old York Road of Pennsylvania, at the Delaware River, was, as before noted, a most important strategic point during the first few years of the Revolutionary War, and in December, 1776, became a military camp.

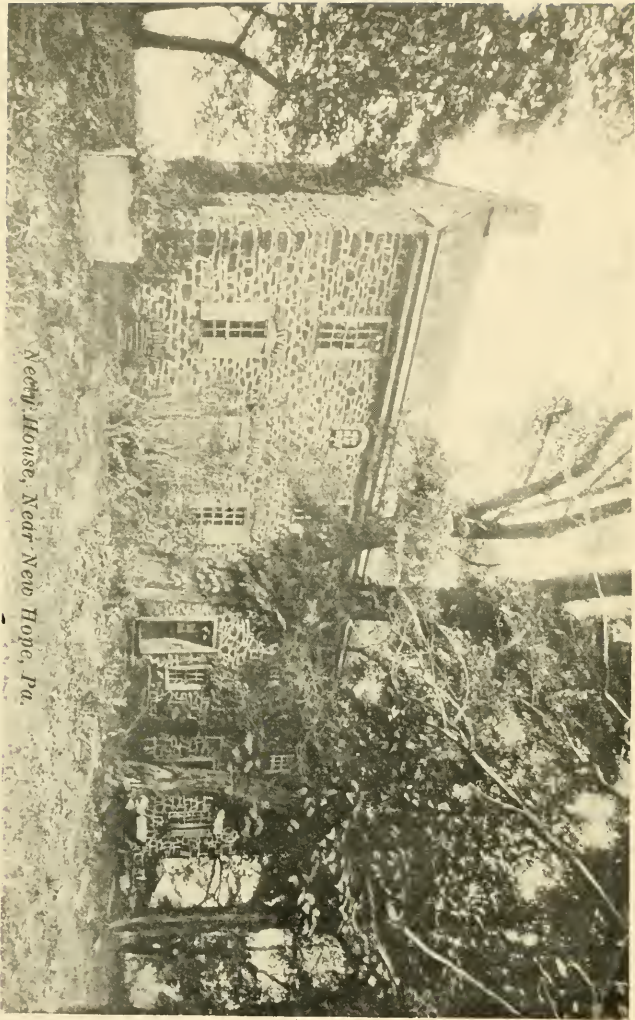
General William Alexander (more commonly known as Lord Stirling), who, although he bore a title, was none the less an ardent American, and intensely patriotic, caused two different parts of the property owned by the speaker's family to be placed in a state of armed defense. One of these was on a hillside across the pond made by the Great Spring or Ingham's Creek; and in its southwesterly direction from the Old Parry Mansion there, from a point easterly from where the yellow schoolhouse now stands, he had a line of earthworks thrown up, which extended in an easterly direction along and well up the hillside, towards the Delaware River. The outline of these earthworks could be quite plainly seen and traced, within my earliest recollection, but have now disappeared. At the river's brink (the termina-

tion of the "Old York Road" in Pennsylvania), just below, the ferry landing, and also a part of this property (purchased from the Todds), stockade entrenchments were erected, and batteries were placed; as was also the case above the ferry landing, some distance along the river front. General Alexander (Lord Stirling) also had another redoubt thrown up on the Old York Road—at the corner of Ferry Street and the present Bridge Street (which latter street did not, however, then exist)—a little southeasterly of where the "Old Washington Tree," cut down November 28th, 1893, then stood. The site of this defense is easily recognized, being where the present Presbyterian chapel and an ancient stone house (both on the south side of the Old York Road) now stand. This stone house was once owned by Captain Edward F. Randolph, a "patriot of 1776" and citizen of Philadelphia, who purchased it for his son, Charles, then a practicing physician in New Hope. Captain Randolph, as first lieutenant in Colonel William Butler's Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment, Continental Army, commanded the outlying picket guard at "The Massacre of Paoli," where he was desperately wounded and left upon the field for dead, escaping by the merest chance. A sightless eye in its socket was one of the mementos of that affair, which he carried with him through life. His portrait hangs upon the walls of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and his biography appears in "Lives of Eminent Philadelphians, Deceased," published over fifty-six years ago (1859). His sword is still in existence, and among the treasured possessions of his great-grandson, Evan Randolph, of Philadelphia. An old silver spoon, used by him in camp, and marked with his initial and crest, has come handed down to the writer's father. A fuller notice of this Revolutionary patriot has been prepared in an appendix to this paper.

At Malta Island, at the southern end of New Hope, and which is now main land, but was, in 1776, surrounded by water and covered by timber, the most of the boats were collected and secreted and floated down by night to Knowles Cove, above Taylorville, and were used in making the famous "Washington's Crossing of the Delaware," on Christmas night and morning of 1776.

At "Malta Island" these boats were watched over and protected by a military guard. "Malta Island" was at one time owned by the late Daniel Parry, a younger brother of Benjamin Parry, for whom the "Old Parry Mansion" was built in A.D. 1784; and here it may not perhaps be inappropriate to mention that among many interesting events connected with this house was the unusual circumstance of a grandchild of its present owner, Richard Randolph Parry, having been born in one of its chambers in A.D. 1901, in the same room in which her great-grandfather, Oliver Parry, was born A.D. 1794, one hundred and seven years before, it being the same house in which her great-great-grandfather, Benjamin Parry, lived and died, five generations earlier, and this important young lady (Margaret K. Parry) is the daughter of the speaker.

The importance of "Coryell's Ferry" in the Revolution can easily be realized and appreciated when we know the great care and attention which General Washington gave to it, and how very necessary its possession was to the American cause at several periods of the war. Its defences in 1776 were so well planned that it would have been most difficult for the British to have captured it; for, even if their troops could have effected a landing at the Ferry, the firing by the American square in their faces, down the Old York Road (the only approach) at the stone house mentioned, and a raking side fire from the hillside across



Netch House, Near New Hope, Pa.



the pond, would have caused them great slaughter before they could have accomplished their purpose. It is much to be regretted that the old name of "Coryell's Ferry" should ever have been dropped. "Fort Washington," "Fort Lee," "King's Bridge," "Dobb's Ferry," etc., having revolutionary interest, have never been altered or changed. And here it may be well to explain how the change came about. Benjamin Parry, an influential citizen of Bucks County and a man of means, owner of the "Prime Hope Mills," on the opposite bank of the Delaware River, in New Jersey, was also the owner of the flour, linseed oil and saw mills on the Pennsylvania side, at New Hope (then Coryell's Ferry"), which, in the year A.D. 1790, were all destroyed by fire and burned to the ground. The linseed oil mill was never rebuilt, but the others were, and, as the mill in New Jersey was termed "Prime Hope," it was determined that the new mills in Pennsylvania should be called "New Hope" and commence operations with new and fresh hopes for the future. With this change also came the change in the name of the village. A growing patriotic sentiment makes it not unlikely that the old name may yet be restored and New Hope again become known to the world by its old style of "Coryell's Ferry"; and in this growing sentiment and feeling I am sure can be seen and felt some reflection of the patriotic efforts and work of the "Sons of the Revolution," Daughters of the American Revolution, and kindred bodies. Interesting spots other than those which have been named in New Hope—"Coryell's Ferry"—are the site of the "Old Fort," as the headquarters of Generals Stirling and De Fermoy were known, only a few yards to the west of the Presbyterian Chapel.

This spot is easily known and recognized by the new hip roof house, which stands upon the foundations of "The Old Hip

Roof House," which was termed "The Old Fort" at the time of the Revolution. General Alexander (Lord Stirling) was beloved and much trusted always by General Washington; he had recently for his bravery been advanced to the rank of Major-General, and, as stated in "Washington and his Generals," Vol. I., page 175, in that capacity took part in the operations on the Delaware River, where he again signalized himself by the successful defence of "Coryell's Ferry." Lord Stirling was also at this period part of the time at Beaumont's farmhouse, next the Thompson (Neeley) place.

Immediately across the Old York Road from the Old Fort, in a field of the Paxsons, troops were encamped, as well as on the hillside south of the pond; and also on the river front, below and above the ferry; and a strong detail at "Malta Island" guarded the boats collected there. On the Old York Road, near the ferry landing, stood in 1776, and still stands, though enlarged, "The Ferry Tavern," which appears to have been so named until 1829, when it was kept by a Mr. Steele, as the speaker's father was informed by William Murray, of New Hope, at that time an aged man, and its oldest citizen, Abraham D. Meyers, succeeded Mr. Steel as landlord, and gave it the name of the "Logan House," which it has ever since retained. Since 1829 it has had divers owners. Michael A. Van Hart, deceased, was owner and landlord for a long term, and until recently it was and may still be owned by his heirs. This old hostelry was much frequented in the days of the Revolution, and here, in December, 1776, the Continental soldiers made wassail, and drank to the the success of their cause and the downfall of King George the Third in his American Colonies.

At the corner of "The Old York Road" and the "Old Trenton or River Road" (severally called Ferry Street and

Main Street within the borough limits), and, walking southward across the iron bridge, over the pond, we come to the "Town Hall," almost opposite which, on Mechanics Street, stands the "Old Vansant House," believed to be the oldest in New Hope. On the removal of a decayed roof years ago, it was found full of rifle marks and bullets shot into it by a party of British soldiers, who passed through the village and encamped at "Bowman's Hill," below town, and said to have been in charge of gold to pay the British soldiers. Being surprised, they left hastily, and, burying the treasure on top of the hill, expected to return for it some time; but the chances of war or leaving the country prevented, and from that time to this natives dug all over the hill for the money, hoping, but never having found it.

The United States Government several years ago provided New Hope with cannon and cannon balls, which are set up in the Borough as memorials of the events which occurred there in the "days of '76." Perhaps, as a result of the 1907 pilgrimage of "The Sons of the Revolution," they or some other similar patriotic Society may also deem some other historic spots of ancient "Coryell Ferry" worthy of being marked by them with one or more memorial tablets.

Jericho Hill, below New Hope, joins Bowman's Hill, and, in addition to the interest given it from having had the quarters of the distinguished officers previously named located upon it, the crest of the hill was cleared and used as a signal station by our army; and, being in winter and the trees leafless, the various generals easily communicated with each other, up and down the river, from this point.

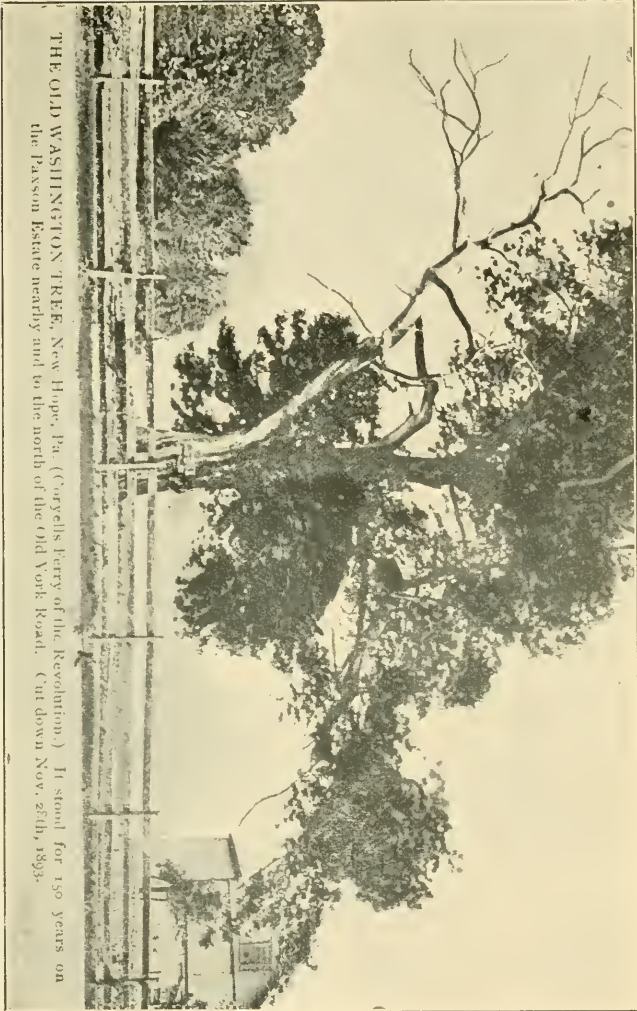
And here, in connection with the Delaware River, I might mention the interesting fact that further up, near Port Jervis,

there is a rock standing on which you can, at one and the same time, be in the three States of Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, with one foot or one hand covering the spot where the three States join and come together. Let us trust that these three States will ever remain as united in a, some day, comprehensive plan to mark their joint historical spots.

I have endeavored to picture to you the situation at "Coryell's Ferry," in "the times which tried men's souls," and that they were most trying is evidenced in many ways; the hardships and sufferings endured by our patriot sires in 1776 at "Coryell's Ferry," and along the banks of the Delaware River, being a fit preparatory school for their later and longer experience in 1777-78 at "Valley Forge."

The winter of 1776 was an exceptionally severe one, and the whole face of the country was covered with ice and snow; the air was keen and biting, and the men insufficiently clothed and badly protected in their tents. Major Enion Williams, of the First Pennsylvania Rifles, stationed at the Neeley-Thompson farm, wrote, December 13th, 1776, that many of his men were barefooted, and General Washington wrote to Congress from his headquarters at Keith's, on December 16th, 1776, asking its help, and stating many of his troops were almost naked and most of them unfit for service. He also appealed to "The Bucks County Committee of Safety" for old clothes and blankets for the soldiers, which the Committee furnished, and received his written thanks.

Of all the actors in these stirring scenes, not one survives today; but the Delaware (noble river, as the Founder Penn described it) and the beautiful Hudson, yonder, each still flows on in their tireless courses to the sea, as they did in Revolutionary days, mute reminders of the acts and deeds performed on their



THE OLD WASHINGTON TREE, New Hope, Pa. (Coryell's ferry of the Revolution.) It stood for 150 years on the Passon Estate nearly until to the north of the Old York Road. Cut down Nov. 26th, 1893.

banks, and which have made their names and their memories imperishable. In taking leave of my subject, I might add that History, dealing only with plain facts, sometimes becomes dull and prosy ; but the "Annals of the Revolution" breathe the very atmosphere of Poetry, Romance and History combined ; and, though their recital must ever be but the old, old story of a patriotism unsurpassed, yet to each succeeding generation it comes with an added freshness and interest, and into willing ears are poured those tales of long ago.

Let us, of this generation, then, appreciate those deeds of our sires ; that made possible this great United States of America, through the War of the Revolution, and later kept our country intact, through the Civil War, and, in turn, perform our patriotic duty, as well and as faithfully as they who have gone before us.

Each of us, in gratitude to our forbears and as a duty to our country, owe our best efforts to see that the Government of the United States of America and each of its historical States, properly and adequately, preserve and mark the historical spots within its and their confines ; that the generations to follow may not lack for patriotic reminders to serve for all time as an incentive to equally great patriotism.

Such monuments of gratitude live forever as object lessons in patriotism, not alone to us of this generation, but to those to follow, and further serve to install that love of country our ancestors possessed and which history teaches us is so necessary for the unity and preservation of all nations.

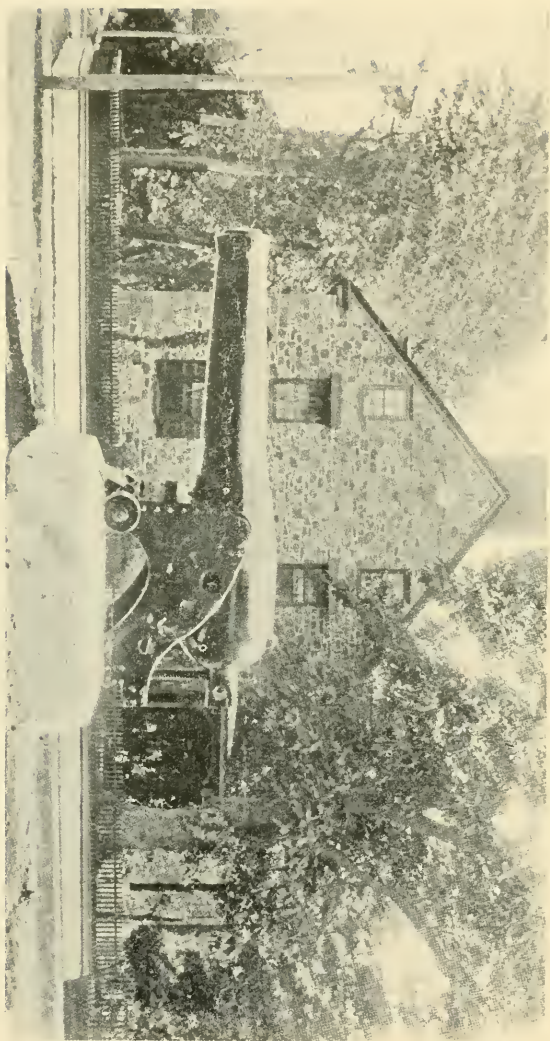
Without detracting from the greatness of Valley Forge—the winter quarters of the Continental Army in my own State of Pennsylvania—the speaker remains sensible of the fact that there would have been no "Valley Forge;" nor "Battle of

Trenton," nor other similar historical spots of later date—which were the trying points in the struggle of the Revolution—had not Washington with his Continental Army performed the remarkable and unexpected feat of crossing the Delaware and camping at "Coryell's Ferry" and adjacent sections, thus making possible the subsequent events that ultimately brought Victory.

"Coryell's Ferry" should have, in addition to the Government cannon, small parks or squares at the river bank; where "the Old Fort" and "Washington's Chestnut Tree" stood, at "Malta Island," etc.; with special markings on each and every historical building and spot, whilst the Revolutionary graveyard, a short distance down the river at Neeleys and "Knowles Cove," a short distance below, should with "Washington's Crossing," be turned into parks while land is still held at farm valuation.

In this connection it is of interest to recall, that our sister State of New Jersey, at a meeting held in Trenton to celebrate the first Columbus Day as a State legal holiday, called upon Governor Fort, then the Chief Executive of the State, to appoint a representative Committee to bring the matter of a national park at "Washington's Crossing," to the attention of the people of the State and of the nation, and that, subsequently, the committee not having accomplished much in the way of results, the State Legislature of 1912, under Governor Wilson (now President Woodrow Wilson of the United States), passed a bill superseding it and creating a much smaller commission, composed of the Governor, Controller, and Treasurer of the State, with Colonel William Libby, of Princeton, the Rev. Jesse Joralemon, of Jersey City, Mr. L. V. Silver, of Trenton, Mr. Charles Blackman, of Atlantic City, and Mr. William L. Doyle, of Trenton.

This Committee procured a plan for the erection of a monu-



ment ; purchased the Blackwell farm of one hundred acres along the road upon which the Continental Troops marched from the river bank to headquarters at " Bear Tavern," engaged a competent landscape engineer to prepare plans for the proposed park and its environments, entered into negotiations for other land, and applied to the State Legislature for an additional appropriation to the twenty-five thousand dollars originally granted. It is to be regretted that the Legislature did not see its way clear to pass this appropriation, and doubly so that the great State of Pennsylvania should not have found a way to overcome the " legal obstacles," and appoint a joint committee to act with the Committee from the State of New Jersey.

With the change in Governors and, I trust, an awakening to the importance of suitably marking this spot with a Park, equal to that contemplated for the New Jersey shore, and connecting both with a substantial and artistic memorial bridge, the State of Pennsylvania will also make a start, and thus, with evidence of earnestness, upon the part of both States, be united in a position to successfully call the National Government's attention to this need.

Starting, here, in New York, the movement of the Continental Troops, during the struggle for freedom, particularly the " Old York Road" connecting us with Philadelphia, and which was the direct stage-coach and shortest route between these two points, should be properly and adequately marked by archways, ornate bridges, tablets, milestones, etc., all of Colonial design. Likewise the entire roadway should reflect appreciation and be constructed of the very best and most lasting materials, and with the markings, reflect the true American patriotism of Nineteen Hundred and Fifteen. Let those who owe single allegiance to our country think, well and long, over the effect

nationally upon the country at large, were our good citizens to rise and make possible this Colonial Roadway as an evidence of their patriotism.

You, ladies, whose maternal ancestors bore the patriots of '76," could well afford to devote a portion of your spare time to such a course as the marking of what was to many of your sires their graves and to others the scenes of their suffering. It would seem, to the speaker, as though the women patriots could best undertake this great movement for marking those scenes and incidents of the Revolutionary days ; now over one hundred and thirty-eight years ago.

I appeal to you, Daughters of the American Revolution, as a Patriotic Society, to require a pledge from those who may be candidates for future political offices, that they will use their influences to pass any or all bills brought before their various Legislative bodies proposing to suitably mark the hallowed ground upon which trod "THE CONTINENTAL ARMY OF '76."

May we have other pilgrimages, similar to the recent one of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, marking the route taken by General Washington from Philadelphia to Cambridge, Mass., to assume command of the CONTINENTAL ARMY, June 22d to July 2d, 1775. Perhaps you ladies might find fit to make such a pilgrimage over the Old York Road to Philadelphia, diverting your route at "Coryell's Ferry" to take in "Washington Crossing," before proceeding on to the "City of Brotherly Love."



REVOLUTIONARY GRAVE YARD AT NEEDLE'S HEAD, NEW JERSEY, PA.

APPENDIX.

EDWARD F. RANDOLPH.

NOTE:—The Captain Randolph mentioned earlier in this paper as owner of an ancient stone house on the "Old York Road," marking a historic spot, was a brave and gallant officer in the Revolutionary War, about whom much might be said and written. As previously noted, as First Lieutenant in Colonel William Butler's Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment, Continental Army, he commanded the outlying guard at "The Massacre of Paoli," where he was desperately wounded and left upon the field for dead. Doctor Stille's "Major-General Wayne and the Pennsylvania Line" mentions that Colonel William Butler's Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment received the attack of the enemy at Paoli, but, in speaking of the officer in command of the picket guard, omits to mention his name, although he places Lieutenant Randolph correctly in Colonel William Butler's Regiment. This omission I am glad to be able to supply now and to state that the officer was First Lieutenant Edward F. Randolph, who, later in life, dropped the use of the "F" in his name. These facts are well known to almost all old Philadelphians (including the late John Jordan, Jr., Esq., President of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania), and are also recited in the "Lives of Eminent Philadelphians, Deceased," published fifty-six years ago (1859). Actuated only by patriotic motives, Captain Randolph gave his services to his country without pay; and when Governor Corwin, of Ohio (whose wife was Sarah Randolph Ross), became connected with the Randolph family, and during his term of office as Secretary of the United States Treasury under President Filmore, he, on divers occasions, informed Captain Randolph's children that they could readily obtain his back pay

if they wished ; but they, of course, never would accept what their father, from high, patriotic motives, had declined to receive. Two of Captain Randolph's grandsons (General Wallace F. Randolph and Major Edward Randolph Parry), both officers of the regular army, served through the whole of the late Civil War, and both were breveted for gallantry.

One of Captain Randolph's swords is still in existence and among the treasured possessions of his great-grandson, Evan Randolph, of Philadelphia, and an old silver spoon used by him in camp and marked with his initial and crest, has come handed down to the speaker's father. In his full regimentals as a Continental officer, he was married, March 16th, 1779, to Anna Julianna Steele, and the silk wedding gown she then wore has descended to the speaker's father and is still preserved. It was worn by a great-granddaughter at a "Kirmess" at the Philadelphia Academy of Music, December 16, 1884, and attracted much attention, and was afterwards described in the newspapers.

Like Colonel Owen Biddle, another Revolutionary patriot, Captain Randolph later adopted the teachings and methods of the Friends (Quakers), and did not care to refer to his military life in his younger days. Though sitting at the head of the Friends meeting, as he did, it was always said he could never, in walking up the aisle, entirely divest himself of the stride and tread of the soldier. Joseph Kite, a Quaker poet, and author of the "Arm Chair," wrote verses upon the death of Edward Randolph, the first verse thus referring to his terrible wounds at Paoli :—

EDWARD RANDOLPH.

"Strong in thy will and purpose—earlier life,
Saw thee a combatant in martial strife—
Where drums and trumpets fired the angry mood
With honors rife, and garments rolled in blood."



In former times all the voting in Philadelphia was done in the State House, Sixth and Chestnut Streets, making a large crowd (and often disorderly), with a long wait for one's turn in the voting line. As Mr. Randolph was very tenacious of his voting privilege, he made it a point to always cast his vote, and was therefore well known at the polls; and when he became an old gentleman, it was customary to pass him ahead through the line to the voting window, as a matter of courtesy and out of respect for his age and military history, with which many persons were familiar. On one occasion, however, on stepping out of his carriage at the polling place, when it was proposed passing him ahead as usual, a raw Irishman, not long in the country, objected, saying, "Where was the likes of you, anyhow, Old Quaker, when fighting was done, and this nation was made, that we should stand back for you." To which Mr. Randolph, turning his one eye upon the man, quietly replied, "Well, friend, I was where thee would not have dared to have shown thy naked nose." This was too much for the Irishman, who, amid the jeers and laughter of the crowd, made a hasty retreat, and Mr. Randolph was passed on and cast his vote.

Strange as it may seem to the younger generation of Philadelphia, in these days of a great overgrown city, his town house was on Second Street, near Arch, and his country seat at what is now Eleventh and Master Streets; and the writer's father, when a young lad, made many a short cut to it (over the open fields) from Ninth and Green Streets. For some years the old mansion stood high up in the air, near the corner of Eleventh and Master, when streets were opened and cut through the estate.

After the war, as a member of the firm of Coates and Randolph, he became largely interested in the East India shipping

trade, and, as was then the custom, the church bells of the city were rung when an East India vessel arrived safely in port, a voyage then, in the days of sailing vessels, often taking months to accomplish.

A portrait in oil of Captain Randolph, painted by Robert Street, hangs on the walls of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. Judge Mitchell, of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, some years ago had an engraving made from this portrait, and one hundred impressions taken from it for private distribution only, and the plate was then destroyed. One of these the speaker's father has in his library.

From Captain Randolph have descended many of the most prominent citizens of Philadelphia and New York of to-day.



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